

## **House Passes Historic Health Care Reform Bill**

### ***Rep. Wilson Commends Bill for Lowering Costs, Reducing Deficit***

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, Congressman Charlie Wilson (OH-6) supported the passage of an historic bill that reforms our nation's health insurance system, brings down the deficit and expands access to affordable, quality health care to nearly every American. The Affordable Health Care for America Act passed with a vote of 220-215.

"Today I voted in favor of historic reforms to our nation's health care industry," Wilson said. "I have long-said I would support a plan that brought stability and security to the health care system, lowered the cost of health care, and insured broader coverage, without increasing our deficit. After months of deliberation, with these conditions met, I proudly cast my vote for the Affordable Health Care for America Act."

Reforming health care is a crucial part of America's economic recovery. The bill cuts long-term health care costs and reduces the deficit by \$109 billion over the first ten years, and continues to reduce the deficit to help grow the economy and put it back on sound footing.

The legislation passed today will cover 96% of Americans and guarantees stability, lower costs, higher quality, and a greater choice of plans for all Americans. It puts individuals and their doctors – not the insurance companies – in charge of your health care decisions.

If you have insurance, this bill:

- Keeps your insurance company from denying you care or coverage – or charging you more – because of diabetes, heart disease or any other "pre-existing condition."
- Gives you peace of mind that you won't lose coverage if you lose your job, move, or change jobs.
- Prevents insurance companies from dropping you because you get "too sick."
- Covers preventive care with no co-pays or deductibles.
- Limits out-of-pocket expenses your insurance company can make you pay.

If you don't have insurance, this bill:

- Lets you comparison shop for a quality, affordable health plan through a new health insurance exchange.
- Offers you low group rates for individual or family coverage.
- Helps lower your premiums with affordability credits for those who need help paying.
- Prevents any insurance company from denying you coverage for "pre-existing conditions."
- Extends coverage for young Americans, allowing them to stay on their parents' health insurance plans up to their 27th birthday.
- Includes a public health insurance option to compete on a level playing field with private insurers.

For seniors, this bill:

- Strengthens Medicare, extending its solvency for years to come.
- Improves access to your doctor.
- Lowers Medicare drug prices by beginning to close the "donut hole" as early as next year.
- Reduces inefficiencies and program costs to help Medicare remain solvent without cutting benefits.
- Improves coordination and increases the quality of care for seniors with diabetes, high blood pressure, and other chronic conditions.

"I have always promised my constituents that I will vote in their best interest," Wilson said. "While this bill may not be perfect, its benefits to the residents of my district are undeniable."

In Ohio's Sixth District, the Affordable Health Care for America Act will:

- Improve employer-based coverage for **365,000** residents.
- Provide credits for up to **174,000** households to help pay for coverage.
- Improve Medicare for **116,000** beneficiaries, including closing the prescription drug "donut hole" for **9,200** seniors.
- Allow **12,600** small businesses to obtain affordable health care coverage and provide tax

credits to help reduce health insurance costs for up to **11,300** small businesses.

- Provide coverage for **45,000** uninsured residents.
- Protect up to **1,300** families from bankruptcy due to unaffordable health care costs.
- Reduce the cost of uncompensated care for hospitals and health care providers by **\$89 million**.